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then the stationary platen is arrested in the operating position. The injection-molding operation is started. To support the forces emanating from the flow front of the polymer, the movable platen is moved by a second traversing mechanism. While the first traversing mechanism is intended to bring about rapid movement over a relatively long path without strong force, a relatively high force is initiated by the second traversing mechanism over a short path. The first traversing mechanism is usually either a hydraulic drive or an electromotive drive, in which the rotary motion of the electric motor is converted into a linear motion by a gear mechanism. Although a hydraulic drive can initiate a linear motion relatively easily, it requires the use of special hydraulic fluids, which are not always desirable. Also, the use of a conventional electric motor means that the original rotational motion of the rotor first has to be converted into a linear motion.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0003] The object of the present invention is to design a surface-pressure generating device in such a way that a rapid traversing mechanism is designed so as to be technically simple. This object is achieved in the present invention by arranging the primary part of a linear motor for the linear traversing on at least one of the tie bars; and with the secondary part of the motor being realized by the other tie bar. As a result, it is possible to realize a drive just by adding a primary part of a linear motor into the construction. The mechanisms are simply incorporated into the drive. The German text of the originally filed application is incorporated herein by reference.

[0004] It has been found to be advantageous if the linear motor is designed as an asynchronous motor, since there is no need for a special design of the tie bars, as would

be necessary for synchronous operation. Moreover, the fact that the primary part of the linear motor is cylindrically engaged around the respective tie bar means that a high motor output can be achieved with a small volume.

DRAWINGS

[0005] A preferred embodiment of the present invention is described in more detail below in the context of the drawing, in which:

Figure 1 illustrates the relevant elements of a plastics injection-molding machine, including the drive elements and in which the plastics injection-molding machine is shown in the moved-out state.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0006] In Figure 1, two mold halves FH1 and FH2 are at a distance from each other, so that a finished molding, (not shown for the sake of overall clarity), can be removed from the machine. The mold half FH1 is fastened to a stationary platen TP. Tie bars, which are cylindrical steel rods, extend from each corner of the stationary platen. Only the tie bars H1 and H2 being visible in the representation. A stationary platen AP is moved relatively rapidly by four primary parts, when the primary parts are electrically activated. Only primary parts L1 and L2 are shown in the representation. Primary parts L1 and L2 are coil arrangements which act as a conventional stator on the tie bars H1 and H2 which act like a "rotor." Consequently, actuation of the primary parts L1 and L2 leads to a relatively rapid linear motion, depending on the direction of flow, indicated by double-headed arrows. The selection of the materials of the tie bars H1 and H2, and any structuring of the material of the tie bars to be performed according to the desired

electrical properties, allow the interaction of the primary parts L1 and L2 with the tie bars H1 and H2 to be influenced according to said choice.

[0007] In conjunction with stationary platen AP, a co-movable platen SP is slidably arranged on tie bars H1 and H2. Piezoelectric actuators are arranged between the platen AP and the movable platen SP. Only actuators P1 to P12 are designated in Figure 1.

[0008] When a workpiece is to be produced, the stationary platen AP and the movable platen SP are moved by the linear motors in such a way that the mold halves FH1 and FH2 come together. The stationary platen AP is then non-positively and/or positively locked in its position with respect to the tie bars H1 and H2 by auxiliary means which are not shown for the sake of overall clarity. The thermoplastic material is injected into the space between mold halves FH1 and FH2. However, to compensate for mechanical deformations of the overall system, the mold half FH2 must be braced against the flow pressure of the material to be injected. This takes place with the aid of the piezoelectric actuators which are electrically activated for this purpose.

[0009] According to the present invention, both traversing mechanisms are electrically triggered, so that it is possible to dispense entirely with the use of hydraulic elements. Furthermore, complicated gear elements are also not needed.

[0010] The principle of moving machine parts with the aid of linear motors in which the secondary part is a component part of the machine framework can be readily transferred also to devices other than surface-pressure generating devices.